

surveillance ? - me

10/28/75

In a conversation ending at about 4:25 p.m. phone company security officer (for the State, in Baltimore) reported that their check showed nothing that was not supposed to be on the equipment that wasn't. This followed my call of Friday morning and this morning to the local Mna, "Harrison, who returned neither call but phoned Meyers.

I told Meyers that I had phoned to ask for a report and had earlier asked for a written one, saying that served their interest and mine. He acknowledged that I had asked this of him 10/1 but he said now, not then, that the phone company will not do this as a matter of police. I asked are you saying that you found my lines free and won't put it in writing? He said this was it.

I asked him if he had any explanation for what happened and he said none.

He said he had a 10/3 report that said all the equipment in my home had been checked, too, and a report that alleged falsely that I had a defective extension cord that made and broke connections. I told him this was false. What I find myself wondering about is the man who did the checking. He knows better. We'd had that cord since 2/68, when Lil broke an ankle. It has always been noise when I walk with it and has never been the source of any trouble at any other time. It was not being moved in any event and we ultimately got the phone back in service without it being moved.

The report is further false in saying that all our equipment was checked. This man did not even look at some outlets. I remember his uncovering only one of the two outside ones (both under cover) and finding it OK. He checked one phone only and we have four.

As I remember what Meyers said the report says that the repairman was able to duplicate this with the cord. That, too, is false. All he found is what there has always been, a scratching noise made when there is motion on the female end of the cord. That never happens this time of the year and is rare other times. Infrequently I use it, when swimming, to take the phone outside. There then has never been any trouble. I have walked as much as 50 feet with it without ever losing a connection. But if it did happen, the fact is that it does not explain and Meyers admits he can't explain what did happen: the phone went and stayed dead.

Lil's recollection of the attitude of the repairman is mine: he was surly and disinterested. Whatever he did or did not do away from here he did less than the minimum here. However, I did not expect anything to show up here, as I then said. If anything were to have shown up it would have been expectable more at the automated switchboard. The phone company promised to send a man there immediately and never did at all. When after a couple of hours I called back I was told there was nobody available with a key. The next day I was told a local man and a Western Electric rew were there at the time this happened and for some time thereafter.